

Message Text

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UNCLAS STATE 144368

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 144368 SENT ACTION USUN NEW YORK
INFO ROME GENEVA JULY 3RD.

QUOTE:

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ROME FOR FODAG, GENEVA FOR USDEL ECOSOC

TAGS: E6EN, ECOSOC, UN, FAO, IT

SUBJECT: ECOSOC RESOLUTION ON FERTILIZERS AND PESTICIDES

REF: USUN 2192

1. PLEASE CONVEY FOLLOWING REPLY TO SYG'S CIRCULAR LETTER
OF JUNE 13 REQUESTING COMMENTS ON USG RESPONSE TO ECOSOC
RESOLUTION 1836 (LVI):

QUOTE. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SHARES THE CONCERN
EXPRESSED BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL ABOUT PROBLEMS OF FOOD
SCARCITY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND THE URGENT NEED FOR
ADEQUATE SUPPLIES OF FERTILIZERS AND PESTICIDES. THE
SECRETARY OF STATE EMPHASIZED THIS CONCERN IN HIS ADDRESS
OF APRIL 15 BEFORE THE SIXTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UNITED
NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY WHEN HE SAID 'FOR COUNTRIES
LIVING NEAR THE MARGIN OF STARVATION, EVEN A SMALL REDUC-

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TION IN YIELDS CAN PRODUCE INTOLERABLE CONSEQUENCES.'

A PRINCIPAL TASK OF THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE NEXT NOVEMBER WILL BE TO EXAMINE THIS PROBLEM AND RECOMMEND MEDIUM AND LONG-TERM MEASURES TO PREVENT FERTILIZER SHORTAGES FROM BECOMING CHRONIC IMPEDIMENTS TO WORLD AGRICULTURE. PARAGRAPH FIVE OF RESOLUTION 1836 RECOGNIZED THIS NEED AND IS FULLY SUPPORTED BY THE UNITED STATES.

"THE UNITED STATES RECOGNIZES FURTHER THAT THE URGENCY OF THE FERTILIZER PROBLEM REQUIRES SHORT-TERM ACTION PRIOR

TO THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE. THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES HAS PROPOSED TO CONGRESS A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN ITS BILATERAL ASSISTANCE TO FOOD PRODUCTION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR WHICH BEGAN JULY 1, INCLUDING BOTH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR FERTILIZER PRODUCTION AND FERTILIZER PROCUREMENT. THE UNITED STATES WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO COORDINATE ITS PROGRAM WITH THE BILATERAL PLANS OF OTHER DONOR COUNTRIES AND MULTILATERAL ASSISTANCE NOW IN EXISTENCE OR WHICH MAY BE IMPLEMENTED AS A RESULT OF THE RESOLUTION.

"FERTILIZER PLANTS IN THE UNITED STATES ARE OPERATING AT NEAR CAPACITY LEVELS IN ORDER TO SUPPLY THE EXTRAORDINARY DEMAND CREATED BY SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASED CROP ACREAGE AND RATES OF APPLICATION IN THE UNITED STATES AND ABROAD. THE UNITED STATES INTENDS TO RESPOND INsofar AS POSSIBLE TO THE URGENT NEED OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FOR INCREASED SUPPLIES.

"MANY COUNTRIES NOT HAVING SIGNIFICANT BILATERAL FERTILIZER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS MAY PREFER TO CONTRIBUTE TO A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM THROUGH MULTILATERAL MEANS. THE UNITED STATES SUPPORTS THEIR EFFORT AND WILL COOPERATE CLOSELY. IT SHOULD BE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE MOST URGENT NEED IS FOR INCREASED FERTILIZER SUPPLIES RATHER THAN FOR FUNDS. WHILE IT IS TRUE THE MASSIVE INCREASE IN FERTILIZER PRICES HAS PRODUCED AN ADDITIONAL FOREIGN EXCHANGE BURDEN ON DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHICH IMPORT A LARGE PROPORTION OF THEIR FERTILIZER NEEDS, THE

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FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEM IS LACK OF AVAILABILITY. A LARGE INCREASE IN FUNDS FOR FERTILIZER PROCUREMENT, IF NOT ACCOMPANIED BY INCREASED SUPPLY, WOULD ONLY SERVE TO BID UP PRICES OF EXISTING SUPPLY, PROVIDING LITTLE INCREASED VOLUME FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND RESULTING IN THE LOSS OF VALUABLE DEVELOPMENT FUNDS.

"THE UNITED STATES LOOKS FORWARD TO REVIEWING THE EMER-

GENCY PLAN OF OPERATIONS FOR INCREASING FERTILIZER AND
PESTICIDE SUPPLIES WHICH WILL BE PRESENTED BY THE
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION
AT THE SPECIAL FAO COUNCIL SESSION SCHEDULED JULY 15-19.
THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION TO THE COUNCIL SESSION WILL
BE PREPARED AT THAT TIME TO COMMENT FURTHER ON PLANS FOR
RESPONDING TO RESOLUTION 1836. END QUOTE. SISCO
UNQUOTE SISCO

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